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draft 20 Apr 59 jgw

STAFF STUDY

PROBLEM: Intelligence support to the US Delegation to the Administrative Radio Conference of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
Geneva, August, 1959.

INTRODUCTION

1. The ITU Administrative Radio Conference, with representation from 90 countries, will convene in August 1959 at Geneva, Switzerland to revise the Administrative Radio Regulations annexed to the International Telecommunications Convention. (See p.)

SCOPE OF INTEREST

CIA is interested in this conference from two angles:

- b) a) as a user of the radio spectrum; being taken care of by means of ECIB Working Groups and inter-agency committees
b) as a producer of intelligence to support US negotiations.

As a major user of radio, CIA is participating in the preparation of policy by means of inter-agency committees and ECIB working groups, guidance to the US Delegation. This staff study is concerned solely with

a b) above, — CIA's responsibility for intelligence support to international negotiations.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

- (B) 1. Under NSC 169, dated 23 October 1953, as revised 10 November 1954,

and

and replaced by NSC-1910, (dated 15 May 1958), CIA has responsibility "to

furnish information vital to international negotiations regarding the use

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of the radio spectrum." (para. 1-d). Toward achieving this objective CIA was authorized to establish a clearing house on foreign usage of the radio spectrum (para. 5-a, and Annex B).

2. Agency implementation of NSC-169 was initiated by a joint memorandum dated 7 January 1954 by DD/T, DD/P, and AD/C (updated by [REDACTED]) thereby, among other things, 1) AD/CR was authorized to establish and maintain the Central File on foreign radio frequency usage; and 2) the Inter-Office Telecommunications Advisory Committee (IOTAC) was established under the Chairmans ip of AD/SI, as the mechanism to assure the discharge of CIA's responsibilities.

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(2) 3. The US has obtained a part of the ITR proposals for the forthcoming Administrative Radio Conference. Analysis of these proposals indicates that a number are inimical to US national interests, notably with regard to its world-wide radio communications networks, its international broadcasting,

The State Dept. and its operation of long range military aircraft.

1. 4. The US Delegation, now being organized by the Department of State, will represent radio users in government and industry. None of the nominees comes from the intelligence community.

5. In addition to the Central Radio Frequency Usage File, there exists within the intelligence community a significant body of pertinent intelligence on foreign telecommunications, especially on the Soviet Bloc.

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6. No formal channel exists to permit CIA intelligence support to the US Delegation.

DISCUSSION

1. Before World War II, when "supply" of radio frequencies exceeded "demand" for use of the radio spectrum, world radio conferences concerned such technical matters as spectrum allocation, technical standards, agreed terminology, and operational procedures. Since World War II, "demand" has exceeded the "supply" of radio frequencies — introducing inevitable economic and political overtones into these hitherto technical considerations, especially with regard to spectrum allocation. The last conference of this type was held in 1947, when many countries had not regained economic stability.

In this climate, the US was able to gain w its objectives with comparative ease; but the world climate —~~w~~ political, economic, sociological, and technological — has altered materially since 1947.

2. US preparation for this conference has been carried on in the traditional manner and has concentrated on establishing an agreed US position. Because US management of the radio spectrum is not vested in any single instrumentality, participants in the preparatory work have represented radio users in government and industry, under Department of State auspices.

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State 3. The resultant US proposals are being given wide circulation.

Pre-conference consultations with NATO and South American countries have assured their general support by 27 countries; the views of the Asians and Africans are not known; the USSR proposals portend difficulties.

4. Over the past several years, the intelligence community has expended considerable effort and produced valuable intelligence on world telecommunications, with greatest emphasis on the Soviet Bloc. In addition to the Central File on Foreign Radio Frequency Usage, there exists a capability to furnish significant intelligence support to the US Delegation along the following lines:

a. The extent that the USSR proposals

- (1) reflect current Soviet practice;
- (2) appear to be bona fide;
- (3) appear to be designed to divide, irritate, and annoy the West.

b. Estimates of trends, growths, and capabilities of ~~SECRET~~ Sovfilec telecommunications;

c. Estimates of what countries will probably support the USSR on _____ proposals and why.

d. Estimates of what countries will probably support the USA on _____ proposals and why.

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CONCLUSIONS

1. Intelligence support would, undoubtedly, strengthen the negotiatorial position of the US delegation to the ITU Administrative Radio Conference, Geneva, August, 1959;
2. CIA is capable of supplying such support.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

It is recommended that

1. The D/CI inform the Secretary of State that there is in being a facility as envisaged in NSC-1910, vice NSC-169, to support US international negotiations on radio spectrum allocation;
2. A formal channel be set up to assure continuing intelligence support to the US Delegation.
3. AD/SI be designated to implement these recommendations.

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